

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;
  - a detector which detects a width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit; and
  - an image data distributor which distributes image data input to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads.
2. An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;
  - a detector which detects a set angle of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit; and
  - 25 a driving timing correction unit which, when driving the recording elements of each of said plurality of recording heads, corrects a driving timing

of each recording element in accordance with the detected set angle.

3. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a recording head unit in which a plurality of  
5 recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;

10 a detector which detects a set angle and a width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit;

15 an image data distributor which distributes image data input to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads; and

20 a driving timing correction unit which, when driving the recording elements of each of said plurality of recording heads in accordance with the distributed image data, corrects a driving timing of each recording element in accordance with the detected set angle.

25 4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notification unit which, if the detected width of the overlapped region of one of said plurality of recording heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies a message

demanding replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

5. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 2, further comprising a notification unit which,  
if the set angle of one of said plurality of recording  
heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies  
a message demanding replacement or adjustment of the  
recording head.

10 6. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 3, further comprising a notification unit which,  
if at least one of the detected set angle and the  
detected width of the overlapped region of one of said  
plurality of recording heads exceeds a predetermined  
allowable range, notifies a message demanding  
15 replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

20 7. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein if at least one of said plurality of  
recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predeter-  
mined test chart is printed, and the width of the  
overlapped region of each of said plurality of  
recording heads is detected again from the printed test  
chart.

25 8. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein if at least one of said plurality of  
recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predeter-  
mined test chart is printed, and the set angle of each  
of said plurality of recording heads is detected again

from the printed test chart.

9. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 3, wherein if at least one of said plurality of  
recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predeter-  
5 mined test chart is printed, and at least one of the  
set angle and the width of the overlapped region of  
each of said plurality of recording heads is detected  
again from the printed test chart.

10. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein whether image data which corresponds  
to the overlapped region between the heads is a line  
image is determined, and, if the image data is found to  
be a line image, the image data is so distributed that  
no complementary printing is performed in the  
15 overlapped region.

11. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 3, wherein whether image data which corresponds  
to the overlapped region between the heads is a line  
image is determined, and, if the image data is found to  
20 be a line image, the image data is so distributed that  
no complementary printing is performed in the  
overlapped region.

12. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein a plurality of said recording head  
25 units are provided in correspondence with different  
color outputs.

13. An image forming apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.

14. An image forming apparatus according to  
5 claim 3, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.